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General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 142

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/56/990)*]

56/298. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991 by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1406 (2002) of 30 April 2002,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 55/262 of 14 June 2001,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2002, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 50 million United States dollars, representing some 11 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only nineteen Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and

[1] A/56/818 and A/56/826.

[2] A/56/887 and A/56/946.

urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 43,412,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, inclusive of 41,529,500 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 1,681,900 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 201,500 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

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[3] A/56/946.

[4] A/56/818.

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 43,412,900 dollars at a monthly rate of 3,617,742 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 2002 and 2003 as set out in its resolution 55/5 B of the same date, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

15. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 3,288,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 at a monthly rate of 274,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 3,041,000 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, the prorated share of 229,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and the increase in staff assessment income of that account for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, and the prorated share of 18,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and the reduction in staff assessment income of that account for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;

16. *Decides* that for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 3,327,737 dollars and other income of 2,482,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2001, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/236, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2001, as set out in its resolution 55/5 B;

17. *Decides also* that for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 3,327,737 dollars and other income of 2,482,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2001 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Decides further* that the decrease in the staff assessment income of 465,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2001 shall be set off against the credits from the unencumbered balance referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17 above;

19. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

20. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

21. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

105th plenary meeting
27 June 2002